

U. S. Envoy Told to Try Harder To See U-2 Pilot Held in Russia

Captors Have Barred Interviews With
Powers Since Plane Was Shot Down
Deep in Soviet Union.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (UPI)

Officials disclosed today that the United States ambassador to Moscow, Llewellyn E. Thompson, has been instructed to intensify efforts to see Francis Gary Powers, imprisoned U-2 pilot.

Powers is serving a 10-year sentence in Russia on aerial espionage charges. No United States official has been permitted to interview him since he was downed 120 miles inside the Soviet Union May 1.

Thompson, under the Eisenhower administration, made repeated efforts through the KGB to talk with the pilot.

The capture of Powers led to collapse of the Paris summit conference, a sharp break between President Eisenhower and Soviet Premier Khrushchev and a new chill in Soviet-American relations.

Officials said no effort was made at present to get Powers released, as were the United States RB-47 flyers.

United States authorities want to check on his treatment and physical condition, as is customary under international law.

An attempt to gain his release might be made at a later date, they indicated. They said they

had no information to support Powers' statement in a recent letter to his father, Howard W. Powers of Pound, Va. that Khrushchev is "going to forget the U-2 incident and might let me come home."

CPYRGHT